2007

Tidelines

New Hampshire Coastal Program

The Changing Face of Restoration

Now that many of the regionally significant salt marsh restoration projects have been completed, the Coastal Program has begun to look at a new frontier: river restoration.

Some problem areas still exist in New Hampshire's salt marshes, but the projects are smaller and are of more interest to towns and conservation organizations. Larger restoration opportunities include eelgrass, shellfish, and river restoration in the coastal zone and watershed, but it's river restoration, or bringing back the natural flow of a river, that is the best match for NHCP's skills and partnerships. For NHCP, the future of restoration lies in the rivers that feed our estuaries and salt marshes.

The Winnicut Dam and surrounding landscape in Greenland. A feasibility study funded by NHCP was instrumental in N.H. Fish and Game's decision for the future removal of the dam, slated for 2008. Like NHCP's transition from salt marsh restoration to river restoration, the scene in this photo moves from salt marsh to river.

Another reason for NHCP to make the transition away from salt marsh restoration is that communities now have the ability to tackle salt marsh restoration projects on their own. For years, the Coastal Program assisted communities by finding the right mix of partners for project planning, design and funding to get projects completed in a cost effective and ecologically safe way. Our role will now be to help local communities build these partnerships on their own. As part of this change, Beth Lambert, coastal restoration coordinator, is coordinating a Salt Marsh Technical Review Team that will support communities as they plan and implement salt marsh restoration projects.

In addition, The Nature Conservancy, NHCP and the N.H. Estuaries Project are exploring the creation of a

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NHCP Gets a Facelift

For years, the NHCP logo featured a cormorant, which, by all accounts, is about as glamorous as a sea gull except it has a worse reputation. In addition, the cormorant is only found on islands and offshore, while much of the Coastal Program's work is in marshes, rivers and throughout the coastal watershed.

To better reflect what we do, our new logo features grass and a fish. The grass can be interpreted as eelgrass, an indicator of estuarine water quality, or marsh grass, a symbol of the coast. The fish is a mummichog, which we use as an indicator of marsh health.

CELEBRATING TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF PARTNERSHIPS

NHCP

Manager's Musings

By Ted Diers, Coastal Program Manager

What's in a word?

Throughout its 25 year history, the Coastal Program has followed, led or been carried along by the buzzwords and issues of the day.

In 1982, when the program began, the issue of "water quality" referred primarily to sewage treatment, with the relatively recent memory of the passage of the Clean Water Act. Here in 2007, when we speak of a "water quality" issue, more likely than not, we mean urban runoff. That evolution represents a forward step in thinking, and some success at addressing the pipe.

In 1982, the goal of land use was to "retain the rural quality of Great Bay." The recommended tool was low-density residential development. Today, the enemy is sprawl and smart growth is the silver bullet. That change has solidified our belief that only through working with community and regional planners, can we truly address the broader coastal issues.

One score and five years ago, protecting coastal resources specifically pointed to beaches, dunes and marshes. Today, we have a coastal watershed conservation plan that identifies the critical resources to protect habitat integrity throughout the 42 town watershed. Another of the original 16 coastal policies was "energy facility siting." That policy was all about oil refineries and nuclear power plants. Over the last year, we have conducted workshops on offshore wind and tidal energy.

While the words and meaning behind them have changed, the basic mission of the coastal program is as fresh today as it was those decades ago. We will continue to work to protect coastal resources, balance the needs of people and ecosystems and develop the partnerships necessary to carry-out those activities.

There remains much work to be done. How history judges us will depend on our ability to turn coastal zone management words into bold action and to listen to the new words as they emerge. Did I hear someone say "climate change"?

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Tidelines **is published annually by the N.H. Coastal Program to highlight projects and issues on the coast.**
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The Stories the Salt Marshes Tell

Salt marsh restoration projects, which aim to bring back natural conditions, involve activities such as removal of fill, creation of pools and tidal creeks, and removal of undersized culverts. The tides are the lifelines for salt marshes; without them they choke to death.

In the early 1990s, Alan Ammann of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) spearheaded a project to inventory all of the potentially restorable salt marshes in New Hampshire. The resulting document, a catalog of available projects, jump-started interest, enthusiasm and action among coastal towns and other agencies. Most of the ensuing restoration projects and partnerships were the result of this inventory. Ted Diers, NHCP coastal restoration coordinator from 1996-2004 and current program manger, worked closely with Ammann on many projects and thinks of him as a mentor.

"We made restoration a mainstream activity. It was no longer one of those weird 'out there' things. We demonstrated that partnerships work," said Diers.

NHCP's project management and funding assistance has helped restore 279 acres of New Hampshire salt marsh to date.

"NHCP mostly kept it on the agenda," said Diers, who is quick to point out that it wouldn't have been possible without the cooperation and assistance of other federal, state and local agencies. "We have been successful in keeping it in the public mind, keeping resources flowing especially with the help of Senator Gregg, all of those things, success begets success."

Awcomin Marsh, Rye

Awcomin Marsh was one of the first restoration projects in New Hampshire, with the first phase of work done in the early '90s.

The early work revived the original channel flowing into the marsh by excavating the dredge spoils that blocked all tidal flow. The dredging material was then used to help restore an eelgrass site that Fred Short, UNH, was working on in the Piscatuaqua River to mitigate the Port Authority expansion.

Bird prints, Awcomin Marsh

The goal was to get some tidal flushing into Awcomin and stop the progression of invasive species.

"Nothing like it had ever been done," said Pete Helm, former NHCP planner who worked on the project.

Phase II work at Awcomin began in 2001 and restored 35 acres of salt marsh by removing the equivalent of 9,000 dump trucks of fill, restoring elevations, and creating a new tidal creek system and open water habitat. In the summer of 2002, volunteers revegetated the site with native plant species. A boardwalk and viewing platforms were constructed in 2005.

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1940

1952

2004

In 1941 and again in 1962, dredge spoils from Rye Harbor were deposited onto Awcomin Marsh raising the elevation of the marsh by up to six feet. In 2002, the Coastal Program implemented a dramatic restoration effort that removed 100,000 cubic yards of dredge material from the site and re-established 35 acres of estuarine habitat.

NHCP Alumni and Partner Profiles

Joanne Cassulo

Current Hometown: Hopkinton, N.H.

Education: B.S. in Earth Sciences, University of Massachusetts., M.S. Planning, University of Rhode Island

Past NHCP job role: Principal Planner Coastal Program/Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Manager (GBNERR), 1985-1990.

What she's doing now: Senior Planner, Office of Energy and Planning

Most proud of: Taking the lead on creating GBNERR, which became part of a national network of protected areas established for long-term research, education and stewardship in 1989. This process involved designating a boundary, identifying priority lands, and working with private landowners to donate property and easements on eight pieces of land around Great Bay. It also involved attaining NOAA's approval, which is the lead federal agency for the NERRs nationwide. After GBNERR was established, the program was transferred to the Fish and Game Department, where it resides today.

What kept her motivated: "Getting GBNERR approved at the federal level was a huge challenge. There was no model to follow, and it was fun to take on. On a personal level, I love Great Bay and wanted to protect it," she said. To inspire landowners to donate land, Cassulo talked with them about the strong tie between their land and the estuary's health, and appealed to their sense of appreciation for its beauty. She said that they could have a pivotal role in protecting what surrounded them, a role that would go beyond their lives.

Interests Outside of Work: Sailing, particularly on Great Bay, skiing and enjoying the winter.

Advice for folks working in the field: "Keep your sense of humor," Cassulo said.

Richard Langan

Current Hometown: Durham, N.H.

Education: B.A. in Biology from Lehigh University, and M.S. and Ph.D. in Zoology from UNH

Current job: Co-Director of the NOAA-UNH Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) for ten years and director of the Atlantic Marine Aquaculture Center and the Open Ocean Aquaculture Program for six years.

Current work focus: Offshore aquaculture and environmental technologies for detection and prevention of coastal pollution and habitat recovery (through CICEET). He even appeared on the History Channel Modern Marvels program on commercial fishing in 2004 to talk about technical challenges and the potential for offshore farming to meet the future demand for seafood.

Past work experiences: From 1988 to 1997, Langan was the manager, director and research scientist at UNH's Jackson Estuarine Lab where he worked mostly on water quality and shellfish issues.

"I suppose you can say that I have worked on (and in) coastal issues since I moved to New Hampshire in 1978. As a master's student, I worked on anadromous fish ecology and did my Ph.D. work on bycatch when I was a commercial fisherman from 1980-1984. I was also an oyster farmer who learned about local water quality issues the hard way. I owned a seafood business in Durham, so I have had experience with regional marine resource issues from a number of different perspectives," he said.

Proudest accomplishments: His role in establishing long-term water quality monitoring in Great Bay, and developing open ocean mussel culture opportunities for local fishermen.

Motivation behind his work: Belief that a healthy and productive coastal environment is essential for societal and economic well being.

On NHCP's influence: "NHCP has affected my work in a number of ways, including funding numerous water quality research projects, getting New Hampshire back on track with classification of shellfish waters, and spearheading the establishment of the N.H. Estuaries Project. I have also greatly benefited from interaction with NHCP directors and staff while serving on advisory boards such as NHEP's Management and Technical Advisory Committees and the Sea Grant Policy Advisory Committee," said Langan.

On how coastal New Hampshire has changed since 1982:
"Boy, that's hard to sum up, but here's a few things that have all increased: people, development, traffic, impervious surfaces, floods, big box stores, national retail and restaurant chains, pleasure boats, and "Mcmansions," while these have decreased: affordable housing, open space, oysters, alewives and cod. All things considered, I'd say that for most, quality of life has gone down," he said.

Dave Hartman

Current Hometown: Warner, N.H.

Education: B.S. in Architecture, Western Reserve University (Ohio) and M.S. in Urban Planning, Columbia University

Past job role with NHCP: Coastal Program Manager from 1989-2003.

Major accomplishment while at NHCP: Creation of the N.H. Estuaries Project, which got its start through the work of NHCP and is now housed at UNH.

Other proud accomplishments at NHCP: Initiated salt marsh restoration projects; created the Dredge Management Task Force, an interagency work group that reviews existing and proposed dredging projects and develops policies, rules and guidelines for dredging activities in New Hampshire's coastal waters; helped form the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment.

What he's doing now: Enjoying an active retirement. He's served on the Warner Board of Selectmen for the past two years and been a beekeeper for seven years.

What work was like before computers: Lots of handwritten memos that had to be typed by a secretary, lots of whiteout, and "you can forget about the internet," he said. When he started as Coastal Program manager in 1989, the coastal staff (four to six in number, depending on the day of the week) shared a computer. It was wheeled around on a stand that was nicknamed "the peanut."

Reflection: "NHCP was an interesting and challenging program. It required a measured amount of planning and implementation," said Hartman.

Jennifer Hunter

Current Hometown: York, Maine

Education: Masters of Environmental Management, Duke University

Current position: Director, New Hampshire Estuaries Project

What its like to work with NHEP: "My job is very administrative, but the priorities that need my attention change from day-to-day. I oversee three to four large federal grant awards at any given time and we have dozens of ongoing projects to manage. Lately I'm spending more of my time trying to shore up funding for our long-term monitoring programs and important community assistance programs, given recent federal budget cuts. Given that so much of our work relies on collaborative approaches, meetings with partners and stakeholders can take up a fair amount of my time," said Hunter.

Most fulfilling aspects of work: Projects that result in environmental improvements and support community resource protection efforts. "I really enjoy working with the many people and organizations that value the work we do. The Seacoast area is very fortunate to have so many talented and committed individuals," she said.

Most challenging aspects: Navigating some of the necessary bureaucratic processes and declining federal funding, despite increased pressures on the health of our coasts and estuaries.

How NHEP and NHCP work together: "Many of the Coastal Program's activities and grant-funded projects help implement the Management Plan for New Hampshire's estuaries. NHCP staff have been involved with the NHEP since its inception in 1995 and were instrumental in the development of the Management Plan. Our programs worked together for many years when we were part of the Office of State Planning and worked side-by-side in the Court Street office. In recent years, we've issued several joint project solicitations to leverage dollars to support important land conservation, habitat restoration, and natural resource planning projects. In addition, NHCP staff participate in the NHEP's Management Committee and various project teams, which set programmatic priorities and provide guidance for the NHEP," she said.

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Final Remarks: "Happy anniversary, and keep up the good work. Special congratulations to Mary Power, who has been with the Coastal Program for all 25 years," said Hunter.

Chris Nash

Current Hometown: Seacoast, N.H.

Education: B.A. Biology, Boston University; M.S. Hydrology, University of New Hampshire.

Past job experiences: Planner Coastal Program 1992-1999. He started as an assistant planner, working in the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, and then became a principal planner, overseeing the coastal nonpoint program, doing federal consistency reviews, and serving on the N.H. Wetlands Board. He later served as the first director of the N.H. Estuaries Project, coordinating the development of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

What he's doing now: DES Shellfish Program Manager. "My basic duties are to run the state's shellfish area classification program, making sure we evaluate the sanitary quality of shellfish harvest areas in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program," he said. He conducts routine and pollution-event monitoring, oversees pollution source identification/evaluation studies, coordinates red tide monitoring, and interfaces with government officials and volunteers.

How his current work involves NHCP: Nash works primarily with the nonpoint source pollution control staff and volunteers. "NHCP staff assists us with sampling, and we coordinate pollution source identification, evaluation, and remediation activities with NHCP and the Watershed Assistance Section," he said.

Pete Helm

Current Hometown: Contoocook, N.H.

Education: Bates College, B.A. Economics, plus graduate courses in natural resources.

Past job role with NHCP: Principal Planner Coastal Program 1987-1994.

What he's doing now: Coordinator, N.H. Conservation Land Stewardship Program, Office of Energy and Planning (formerly the Land Conservation Investment Program, and formerly OSP). "We undertake conservation easement monitoring on over 100,000 acres of land on state held conservation easements all over the state. We also provide training and oversight monitoring to 78 local communities," Helm said.

Proudest accomplishments: Undertaking the first salt marsh restoration project in New Hampshire at Awcomin Marsh near Rye Harbor, in the early '90s. "It required an incredible amount of planning and coordination with little money available at the time. It's great to see that the project continued past my tenure," he said.

What working with NHCP was like: "My work focus was around wetland issues, federal consistency, and developing the first submission of the Coastal Nonpoint Program. At the time, the Wetlands Board (replaced by the Wetlands Bureau in 1996) met once each week, so between prep time and meetings, it was easily 25 percent of my workload. A typical day was paperwork and more paperwork, with an occasional day out on the coast," he said.

Interests outside of work: Board member of the Five Rivers Conservation Trust, plays mandolin and bouzouki, hikes, bikes, cross country skis, kayaks, gardens, and generally tries to have fun.

Coast by the Numbers

$8 million. Approximately how many total dollars NHCP has awarded in matching grants since the beginning of its competitive grant program in 1983.

37%. Average pass-through rate to grant program of the total NOAA dollars received.

500. Approximate number of projects funded since 1982.

The Stories that Salt Marshes Tell continued from page 3.

Little River Salt Marsh, North Hampton

Little River's namesake is deceiving since everything about this project was big. The cost ($1.2 million) and number of permits, landowners and engineering designs, all the way down to the size of the culverts and potential impact of a mistake, was bigger than ever before. "This project taught us how to do big restoration projects," said Diers.

Today, twin 6'x12' box culverts provide a channel for tides to travel to the marsh under Route 1A.

Before Little River, Diers had done minimal work on the Wallis Road project in Rye, which was the first time he had ever been on a salt marsh.

In October 1996, over six feet of water covered the marsh, flooding nearby residents. For 50 years, the Little River Salt Marsh had been behaving like a clogged bathtub.

During coastal storms, water running off the land meets the high tides, with nowhere to go. Marshes act like sponges, absorbing excess water and keeping it off the roads and out of basements.

"That's why when we fill marshes, we get into trouble," said Beth Lambert, coastal restoration coordinator.

But even the marsh has its limits to what it can hold, especially when lots of manmade structures are nearby, like seawalls and pavement, causing water to get trapped and spill over.

"A lot of people were flooded around Little River in '96. There was a pretty big cry to do something," Diers said.

The missing component was somebody to sit in the middle, figure out required permitting, and manage the project. Enter Diers, who said that the experience showed him how to build partnerships around projects and how to work really hard to keep them together.

In 2000, after three years of project planning, a partnership of agencies replaced the undersized culvert with twin 6'x12' box culverts.

Odiorne State Park, Rye

A recent partnership between NHCP, NRCS and others helped remove a half acre of parking lot fill from the marsh and construct a boardwalk. In the 1970s, asphalt had been put in with little thought to the adverse impacts to the marsh. The area has since revegetated naturally with native plants. Prior to the construction of a boardwalk in 2005, people tramped across the marsh to get to the trails, killing the vegetation.

The restoration work of yesterday sets the foundation for more work, which is now expanding beyond salt marshes and further into the coastal watershed.

Examples of Salt Marsh Restoration Partners:

New Hampshire Department of Transportation—Many projects were under state highways and DOT was willing to help. Diers called DOT the unsung hero.

Department of Environmental Services—The Wetlands Bureau, with the specific help of Frank Richardson and Craig Rennie, assisted with design and permitting. Some funding was provided through the Watershed Management Bureau (before NHCP was incorporated into DES).

Natural Resources Conservation Service—Provided inventory of tidal restrictions in New Hampshire salt marshes.

Ducks Unlimited—Provided expertise, funding and leadership with monitoring.

View of the marsh from the new boardwalk at Odiorne State Park, Rye.

Special Anniversary Issue Timeline 25 Years of NHCP

1982
NHCP gains federal approval under the provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, covering a narrow band of shoreland along the Atlantic coast and lower Piscataqua River. The Office of State Planning is designated as NHCP's parent agency.

1983
The NHCP contracts with DES to provide enforcement of the state's wetlands law.

The first Coastweeks celebration, which includes the first International Coastal Cleanup Day, is held.

The NHCP competitive grant program begins.

1985
The first conservation easement (51 acres along the Squamscott River) for the Great Bay Project is established for permanent land protection.

1988
NHCP adds the lands that border Great Bay, Little Bay and several tidal estuarine rivers and wetlands to the approved program.

1989
Great Bay is designated as a National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is created.

NHCP grant made for the architectural design of the proposed Nature Center at Odiorne State Park (later to be opened as the Seacoast Science Center).

1990
Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 is reauthorized.

1992
Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge is formally dedicated, transferring 1,095 acres of land from the Air Force to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

1994
Portions of Seabrook/Hampton Harbor clam flats are conditionally reopened after six years of closure.

1995
The N.H. Estuaries Project is approved by the EPA.

1996
UNH is named as the host of the new Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology.

1999
The N.H. Supreme Court establishes the mean high tide line as the boundary between private and public lands along the coast.

The Natural Resource Outreach Coalition debuts its presentation "Dealing with Growth: N.H.'s Quality of Life at Risk," in Newmarket.

2000
Restoration project at Little River Salt Marsh is completed in North Hampton.

2001
EPA and NOAA approve N.H.'s Nonpoint Pollution Source Control Program. Implementation funds are awarded to initiate key NPS projects.

2002
Senator Judd Gregg establishes the Coastal and Estuarine Conservation Program, to protect significant coastal habitats around the nation. Senator Gregg adds $1 million to NHCP budget for restoration.

2003
The Coastal Program and Office of State Planning are reorganized into the Office of Energy and Planning.

Restoration at Pickering Salt Marsh, Greenland is completed.

2004
The Coastal Program is reorganized into DES.

The coastal zone boundary is expanded to include the 17 tidal communities in their entirety.

A portion of the Bellamy River in Dover is reopened to shellfish harvesting after a 20-year ban.

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy outlines a vision for improving ocean management in the Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century.

2005
DES designates coastal waters as a "No Discharge Area" for boat sewage.

NHCP and USGS publish research on the impacts of impervious surfaces to small watersheds in coastal New Hampshire.

Invasive species partnership initiated by NHCP and NRCS to develop long-term plan to restore native plants to salt marshes.

Marsh restoration and boardwalk completed at Awcomin Marsh and Odiorne Point, both in Rye.

2007
NHCP involved in national effort to reauthorize the CZMA. A broad visioning process proceeds and legislation is introduced in the U.S. Senate.

River restoration process to remove Winnicut Dam in Greenland begins.

NHCP and the Office of Energy and Planning host Tidal Energy Workshop.

Question and Answer with Mary Power

Mary Power, executive secretary and institutional memory.

Armed with an internal compass and 25 years worth of institutional memory, Mary Power, executive secretary, is the friendly face of the coastal office, where she staffs the front desk and fields all phone and in-person inquires.

Power was hired by the state in late 1981 as the support staff on the coast. Power took all calls and requests for permit information for the DES Wetlands Bureau, Subsurface and Site Specific programs, and starting in 1982, the Coastal Program. She was an employee of the then Office of State Planning, which had a contract with DES to enforce coastal wetlands policies. Power was also the support staff for the N.H. Estuaries Project. In addition, Power ran the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) for 20 years before the Coastal Program passed the torch to the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation in 2004. She also helped run Coastweeks from 1983 to 2002, a week-long celebration to bring attention to coastal resources and to recruit volunteers for the annual ICC.

In her spare time during the early '80s, Power joined the Seacoast Council on Tourism and was the promotion chairman for the Portsmouth Jazz Festival, and used her media network as an opportunity to publicize coastal issues and events. Her networking ability earned her the nick name "The Princess of Portsmouth." The inside NHCP joke was to ask Power, "Where's your tiara?"

Today, in addition to her managerial duties, Power is working on an update of the coastal public access map and is helping plan special events. She continues to coordinate the ICC underwater cleanup site at various locations around the Seacoast. Last year, she and her team of scuba divers manned Rye Harbor, finding everything from abandoned dories and traps to lost sunglass and fishing knives and gear underwater.

Q: What have you learned from working with NHCP?

A: Working with NHCP has given me a wonderful education in environmental studies. New Hampshire's environmental health is so important to the economy of the state and to New England. I have also been inspired by the dedication of my coworkers to the health of the natural resources all around us. In addition, my position has certainly honed my customer service skills.

Q: Is there such a thing as a typical day for you?

A: Every single day is completely different than the last. If we have had a major flooding incident, I get 30 or more calls a day. If it is just a regular day, no property-threatening, weather-related incidences, then it's about 20 to 25. The most common calls are homeowners who call about wetland permit requirements or who are calling to report possible illegal activity. At least four people a day come in to inquire about permit issues. There are folks who come in from time to time to report environmental impacts and the occasional person who needs directions. I truly love to sort things out for people … analyze and troubleshoot.

Q: What is the most bizarre question you've ever received and how did you respond?

A: One of the weirdest questions was from a woman who owns a home across from Rye Beach asking why the large ball of abandoned lobster traps was still there after several weeks. She couldn't see the ocean! I called Fish and Game and made some inquiries. There was also a gentleman who wanted to know if it was environmentally safe and acceptable to scatter a person's ashes into the ocean off of Rye. There have been so many odd questions and requests over the years....too numerous to mention.

Q: What has been the most fulfilling aspect of your work? What has been the most challenging?

A: The most fulfilling has been the interaction with the municipalities along the Seacoast. I have had a good rapport with the building inspectors, code enforcement people and town conservation commissions over the years. Some of the partnerships established 20-25 years ago are still strong, I'm happy to say.

One challenging time was when the permitting and enforcement issues heated up during the building boom in the mid '80s. At times the subsurface inspector had to recruit help from other regions in order to keep up, and I was answering so many calls that I needed a headset! I assisted

the subsurface person by keeping the files in order. They were stored in his office, in the hall and in the basement. Anywhere they would fit.

Q: What accomplishments are you most proud of in your work?

A: I think I am most proud that I have been, in part, responsible for good relationships with the towns and with other state agencies. I am also proud to have been there in the beginning of great events like Coastweeks, the ICC and the opening of the clamflats in the Hampton Harbor Estuary.

Q: Why have you stayed with NHCP for 25 years?

A: Every day is a different list of accomplishments! It's never dull.

Q: What have been the biggest changes in coastal New Hampshire since 1982?

A: The big changes were made when the land acquisitions began to happen around Great Bay. I think people began to think of the precious resources there and at the Hampton Harbor estuary in a different way, and inroads were made to correct the impacts that were occurring in both areas as well as other areas around the Seacoast. Another great stride was made when the N.H. Estuaries Project began the push to clean up the Hampton Harbor so that the clamflats could be reopened. It took a great deal of work to get everyone to commit to change, but it has paid off by having a resource returned to good health. I think our outreach and educational campaigns over the years has made a difference in people's

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The Changing Face of Restoration

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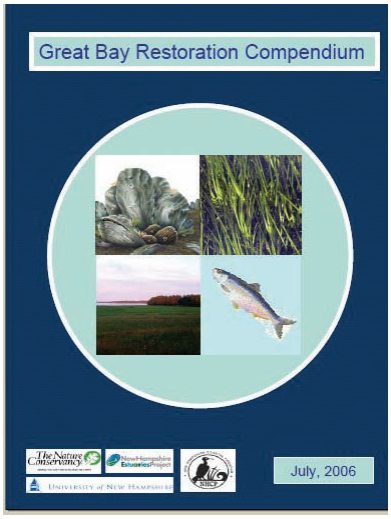
restoration partnership for the Great Bay Estuary and its tributaries. NHCP's role in the partnership would be coastal river restoration.

"There's nothing more important to the integrity of a river than free flow," said Lambert.



Flooding problems, low fish returns and too much sediment are just some of the symptoms of a "sick" river. Each issue is a symptom of the overall health of the ecosystem.

Culvert replacement and dam removal are some ways to help restore rivers. Increased public safety and the restoration of free fish passage are some benefits. It is not the objective to remove all dams, but failing dams that are no longer in use and block important habitat represent the highest priorities.

Compass Rose

NHCP's strategic plan, which will guide the Coastal Program's work and help define our niche in coastal management for the next two to three years, is now available online at: www.des.nh.gov/Coastal/aboutus.html. Working with our network of partners, NHCP will focus on areas with the most demonstrated need that protect coastal resources while balancing the needs of people and ecosystems.

Priority areas:
Ocean resources

Community science-based decision making

Habitat restoration

Restoration Information at Your Fingertips

The Great Bay Estuary Restoration Compendium, developed in 2006 by The Nature Conservancy with funding from the Coastal Program and N.H. Estuaries Project, provides a comprehensive information base on types and locations of potential restoration projects in Great Bay. It shows eelgrass, salt marsh, diadromous fish, and shellfish restoration opportunities, including areas where these opportunities overlap, highlighting locations that are the most likely to be effective in addressing multiple issues.

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perception of our environment and has instilled a sense of responsibility and stewardship.

Q: What do you do in your spare time?

A: I spend a lot of time planting and caring for the flowers and plants around my house, and I spend a good amount of time working out. I'm determined to stay fit and healthy! The rest is spent hanging out with friends!

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: Kitty-boy George was the one who jumped up and stayed with me when I was searching for the best cat on earth at the SPCA in Stratham. He is an orange tabby-type who I got the day after George Harrison died. I had to name him George.

Q: What is your favorite book? What about music?

A: I love to read anything by John Grisham or Scott Torrow. John Kennedy is also a favorite author. Music: I like hip-hop and blue grass but rock and roll is still the best!

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Each issue connects coastal decision makers and activists with new, locally-useful resources and info!

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